

Says Onassis Got \$8 Million Windfall

WASHINGTON, April 23 (AP) Sen. Williams (R-Del.) today said Aristotle S. Onassis, wealthy Greek-born shipowner, would get an \$8 million windfall in a contract signed with the U. S. Maritime Administration.

Under the agreement, three large tankers are to be built at a cost of \$51,300,000 at a Quincy, Mass., yard.

Williams told the Senate that not only does the contract give Onassis the windfall, but the Government is being used to

guarantee 87½ percent of the construction costs.

THE WINDFALL. Williams said, grew out of an earlier deal under which he asserted Onassis got a \$20 million break from the Maritime Administration.

The agency permitted this, Williams said, by allowing Onassis to transfer to foreign registry 14 ships he bought from the U. S. government. Their earning power was much greater under foreign registry, Williams con-

tinued, because lower wages could be paid crews.

But, he said, the Administration justified this on the ground Onassis agreed to build the three huge tankers in American shipyards without any U. S. aid. The ships were to be controlled by American-owned companies.

In the event the contract was forfeited, Williams said, the U. S. was to collect \$8 million from Onassis.

But, he said, the maritime agency now has waived the \$8 million and Onassis is to get aid on the construction.

"THIS IN EFFECT, is an \$8,000,000 gift to Mr. Onassis," Williams said.

THE DELAWARE SENATOR said the Maritime Administration seeks to justify the contract by claiming the tankers will be operated by American citizens under the American flag."

Williams disputed this, saying three-fourths of the controlling company's stock is held in trust for Onassis' two minor children. The rest, Williams said, is owned by a foreign company controlled by Onassis, who is now an Argentine citizen.

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